

What can be initially unsettling about what Jesus is teaching here? What is the ideal response of a hostile offender to your non-retaliation?

What is the difference between justice and revenge? Or justice and retaliation? When is it appropriate to just “let it go?”

What are some modern-day versions of being slapped on the cheek?

A few weeks ago, Pastor Matt pointed out that peacemakers weave back together the shalom of God in every part of life so that we can live the flourishing life together. How can your response of non-retaliation be a catalyst for this type of change in the world?

What does God want us to hear? Based on the passage and the questions above, what “takeaways” do you think God has revealed to you?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO?

There are instances when Christians today encounter scorn, their morals are belittled and mocked, and faith is not respected. In the face of that hostility, what helps us to respond with poise and grace? The instructions of these verses may seem preposterous in our modern culture’s views. If challenged to explain the intention of Jesus’ teaching here to someone seeking to know God, what would be most challenging part of that conversation?

What does God want us to do? Flowing out of our reading and interpretation, what action does this passage or the Spirit’s leading, call us to?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

Take time to process what these verses meant to the people who listened to Jesus speak. Considering the oppression of Roman domination, imagine their difficulty in understanding what he asked of them.

Specifically identify how these verses translate into our time and culture, and how they translate into your own reality. Begin a mental list of when and where you can embrace the task to live them out in your daily life.

If we choose to hold personal rights and possessions loosely, if we begin to recognize that peace is not merely a cessation of conflict (a cease fire) but rather a pursuit of common purpose, namely human flourishing for everyone – even those consumed with hatred and hostility.

What does God want ME to do? What is the personal application and action step God is calling you, personally, toward?

